United Nations A/56/761–S/2001/1336

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 31 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you as follows:

On 24 December 2001 Israeli forces brought an excavator to the road opposite the gate located to the east of the town of Ghajar. Over a two-hour period, it was used to dig a trench 150 metres long and half a metre deep extending from the gate along the road east of Ghajar in a southerly direction and reaching a point next to the eastern approach opposite the fortified Israeli position that was recently constructed.

The commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon immediately proceeded to the vicinity, as did units of the Lebanese liaison service and the South intelligence branch, and the work has been suspended up to the present time.

The trench dug by the Israeli forces is thought to be the footing on which a fence was to have been erected along the town boundary in occupied Syrian territory from the metal gate to the heights above Abbasiyah. This measure was to have been implemented pursuant to the decision taken by Israel about one month ago to prevent, as it claims, any infiltration from the Lebanese side after it had met with Lebanon's refusal to close a 20-metre gap in the town's northern environs and had subsequently ordered the Ghajar municipality to close it.

The inhabitants of Ghajar appealed to the Supreme Court of Israel against the decision to erect the fence when their representations to the relevant authorities during the previous month failed to dissuade the Israeli forces from taking a step that would separate the occupied town from its land and leave all of it on the Lebanese side.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Letter dated 31 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

On 9 December 2001 Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft overflew Beirut, the Shuf and the South at moderate altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1001 and 1057 hours on 10 December 2001 Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the South at high altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0904 and 0911 hours on 11 December 2001 Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft overflew the UNIFIL area of operations in the South at high altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1030 and 1155 hours on 12 December 2001 Israeli warplanes, violating Lebanese airspace, overflew Shab`a, the Western Bekaa and Beirut while breaking the sound barrier and circled between Beirut and the South.

Between 1350 and 1420 hours on 13 December 2001 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft, violating Lebanese airspace, flew over the sea off Beirut and circled between Beirut and Sidon at a distance of four nautical miles offshore.

Between 1910 hours on 13 December and 0545 hours on 14 December 2001 two reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. One flew over the Kafr Killa area and the other flew over the sea five nautical miles off Sidon and circled between Beirut and the South.

Between 1805 and 2115 hours on 14 December 2001 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft, violating Lebanese airspace, flew over the sea five nautical miles off Naqurah, heading north, and circled between Beirut and the South.

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Between 1212 and 1223 hours on 16 December 2001 two Israeli warplanes overflew the Kafr Killa area, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1545 hours on 17 December 2001 an element belonging to the Israeli enemy forces based at the Shaykh Abbad position opened fire on a young man on the Lebanese side of the Blue Line and shot him in the leg.

Between 0930 and 2338 hours on 17 December 2001 Israeli warplanes, helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Kafr Shuba, Hasbayya, Marj Uyun, Tyre, Zahrani, Sidon, Damur, Beirut, Shikka, Western Bekaa and Rashayya areas at high and moderate altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0930 and 1000 hours on 18 December 2001 two Israeli warplanes, violating Lebanese airspace, overflew the Bint Jubayl area heading north and circled between Sidon and Naqurah.

Between 0941 and 1608 hours on 18 December 2001 Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft, violating Lebanese airspace, overflew the UNIFIL area of operations at high and moderate altitudes and circled over Tyre.

On 19 December 2001 Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Naqurah, Bekaa, Marj Uyun, Jwayya, Tibnin, Nabatiyah and Mount Lebanon areas at moderate and high altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0922 and 0935 hours on 19 December 2001 an Israeli warplane overflew the UNIFIL area of operations in the South, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

The Israeli aerial violations indicated above confirm that Israel is continuing to provoke Lebanon and to attack the country. These violations are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty, and they pose a threat to security and stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative